



Ringwood School

Sustainability Climate Action Plan

Document Name	Sustainability Climate Action Plan
Policy Owner	Operations Manager
Authorised by	Senior Leadership Team
Created	November 2025
Approved	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee – December 2025
Review Frequency	Annual
Statutory, regulatory and/or contractual considerations	Department for Education (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy makes a Climate Action Plan compulsory

Ringwood School has created this Action Plan in conjunction with Lets Go Zero.

Our School Operations Manager is taking the lead on this initiative.



Our Sustainability Vision

Our school and curriculum empower students to be advocates of change for a more sustainable world.

Our school Values



What is Climate Change?

The dictionary definition is:

A change in global or regional acclimate patterns, in particular a change apparent from mid to late 20th Century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

There are many factors that can make the Earth warmer and colder including:

- greenhouse gases caused by human activity
- deforestation, where more than half of the world's surface has been ploughed and paved
- ozone layer trapping heat closer to the Earth's surface
- different types of air pollution which have different effects on the atmosphere

The challenge of climate change is formidable. For children and young people to meet it with determination, and not with despair, we must offer them not just truth but also hope. Learners need to know the truth about climate change – through knowledge-rich education. They must also be given the hope that they can be agents of change, through hands-on activity and, as they progress, through guidance and programmes allowing them to pursue a green career pathway in their chosen field (DFE 2023).

What can we do?

The DFE has called on all education sectors to create a sustainability climate action plan to show how we, as a school community, can support national and international initiatives which are aimed at protecting the world through direct climate action. As a school, we have an important role to play in this, particularly reducing our environmental footprint to work towards net zero and giving all children, young people and adults the knowledge and skills to thrive in the green economy and to help restore nature.

Through our sustainability climate action plan, we will engage directly with children and young people who are passionate about the natural world, want to do their best to protect it and can influence their wider communities.

Through their learned and lived experiences from early years to Year 6, our children will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.

Using the four areas identified in the [DFE's Sustainability and climate change strategy](#) our sustainability and climate action plan will focus on:

1. Decarbonisation e.g. taking action to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient.
2. Adaptation and Resilience e.g. taking action to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating.
3. Biodiversity eg engaging with [National Education Nature Park](#)
4. Climate Education and Green Careers e.g. knowledge rich comprehensive teaching about climate change.

It will also include:

Creating an environment where we can connect to nature is essential for self-enforcement, ensuring our students will:

- spend time in nature and learn more about it
- become actively involved in the improvement of their local environment
- know that regular contact with green spaces can have a beneficial impact on their physical and mental health.

Climate adaptation and decarbonisation activities can provide powerful learning opportunities to ensure that our students will:

- participate in the implementation of climate adaptation measures
- learn in buildings designed for net zero
- find out more about the impact of energy and water use
- see sustainability brought to life in the buildings around them, allowing them to gain experiences which will enhance and contextualise their learning.

What we have achieved so far

DFE Category (see above)	What	When	Where	Cost
1	LED lighting upgrade	Summer 2023 -> present	Site wide, with only a small handful of areas remaining (detached English building, Food Tech, Art classrooms, Conference Centre lobby)	Circa £32k funded by DfE
1	Solar PV Panels	Summer 2023	Main building	Circa £38k funded by DfE
2	Air Conditioning	Summer 2020 -> present	Selective rooms mostly IT suites and classrooms with additional IT equipment	Circa £22k over 6 classrooms, plus extra from some communal areas
1	Energy usage tracking	Ongoing	Regular and active tracking of energy usage to identify areas for elimination of waste	None
1	Catering sustainability and waste reduction	Ongoing	Summer 2024 food waste system introduced. Ongoing work to make the catering offering more sustainable; moving to electric ovens from gas when opportunity arises.	Not significant
1,2	CIF Bid Submissions to replace inefficient heating systems and improve thermal and energy efficiency in the Technology building.	2023 -> present	Main building plant room and heating infrastructure. Technology building.	Costs to prepare CIF bids to date circa £100k

Key Priorities for 2025 / 2026:

DfE Category	Action	Steps	Completed in 2006 by:	Resources
1,2	CIF submissions	Continued best efforts to upgrade the heating system in Main, Art and Science buildings	End June	Alongside external consultants.
1,2	Energy and water consumption review	Further review energy and water usage and identify any additional areas for efficiencies	End March	Operations Manager Finance Team
1	Have an external review of scope for further cost-effective solar panelling in school	Request review from external specialist provider to indicate potential investment and returns	End March	Operations Manager
1	Obtain a proposal for conversion of remaining lighting to LED to consider cost / benefit of further investment	Request review and proposal from external supplier	End April	Operations Manager
1,3	Printing / copying data	Review usage reports to create budgets, identify any additional areas for efficiencies	End March	Operations Manager ITEC – our supplier Finance Team
All	Create focus group of staff	Present this Action Plan to staff via briefing and ask for volunteers to form focus group which in turn will attract student input	End January	All staff
All	Create a student engagement plan	From staff focus group above, consider existing student exposure to these topics within School and how that can be developed and with greater student engagement with wider plan	End April	Staff focus group All students
All	Establish benchmarking of plan with similar schools for sharing of ideas	Identify and reach out to 2 other contacts at other Secondary schools with whom to exchange ideas and plan	End April	Operations Manager
All	Review progress with Plan half yearly	Present progress with actions	June / Dec	SLT and Audit Committee